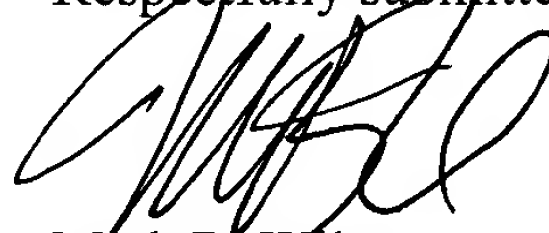


A Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), Applicants petition for an extension of time of three months to and including January 1, 2004, in which to respond to the Office Action dated July 1, 2003. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, a check in the amount of \$950.00 is enclosed, which is the process fee for a three-month extension of time for a large entity status. If the check is inadvertently omitted, or should any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, or should an overpayment be included herein, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct or credit said fees from or to Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No. 50-1212/ESSR:058US.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark B. Wilson

Reg. No. 37,259

Attorney for Applicants

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Date: December 19, 2003